

opened or disturbed without leaving permanent visual evidence of tampering or damage. Accordingly, the invention is not limited to the particular embodiments described above. Rather, the invention is intended to cover all modifications and changes that fall within the broad scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

1. An authenticated memorabilia system, the system comprising:

a housing, the housing having front and rear portions, the front and rear portions including mirror-image indentations, the indentations defining receptacles when the housing portions are mated together;

a memorabilia article disposed in first one of the receptacles;

an identification tag disposed in a second one of the receptacles, the identification tag including an authenticated autograph of a unique individual associated with the memorabilia article; and

wherein the front and rear housing portions are constructed of a substantially transparent material such that a front and rear surface of the memorabilia article and a front and rear surface of the identification tag are visible through the front and rear housing portions.

2. The memorabilia system according to claim 1, wherein the housing portions are constructed of a clear thermoplastic material which does not offer any impairment to visualization of either the memorabilia article or the identification tag.

3. The memorabilia system according to claim 2, both surfaces of the identification tag containing identification and authentication indicia, the front face of the identification tag including text which identifies the issuing entity and text identifying the memorabilia article contained within the receptacle.
4. The memorabilia system according to claim 3, wherein a portion of the front face of the identification tag includes an area reserved for a grading mark, the grading mark providing an indication of a collectable condition designation of the memorabilia article, the identification tag further including a numerical designator indicating the quality degree within a particular condition designation.
5. The memorabilia system according to claim 4, wherein the identification tag further includes a serial number, the serial number comprising a unique alpha or alpha numeric sequence which specifically identifies the memorabilia article disposed within the housing.
6. The memorabilia system according to claim 5, the identification tag further including:
- a marker area; and
 - a biological marker disposed within the marker area, the biological marker invisible to the naked eye and only visible under light in specific wavelengths, the presence of the biological marker providing an indication of authenticity of the memorabilia article.

7. The memorabilia system according to claim 5, further comprising:

an authentication service;

a memorabilia article registration database, maintained by the authentication service;

and

wherein the unique serial number is associated to the specific memorabilia article in the database.

8. A method for authenticating a memorabilia article, the method comprising:

providing a memorabilia article, the article associated to a unique personality figure;

inscribing an autograph of the unique personality figure on an identification tag, the autograph being inscribed on the tag in the presence of an agent of a recognized authentication service;

encapsulating the memorabilia article and the identification tag in a housing within an encapsulation facility under the supervision of the authentication service; and

permanently sealing the housing along a periphery, such that neither the article nor the tag may be removed therefrom without providing visible indications of tampering on the housing.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the housing comprises front and rear portions, each constructed of a clear thermoplastic material which does not offer any impairment to visualization of either the memorabilia article or the identification tag.

10. The method according to claim 9, the identification tag further including front and rear surfaces, both surfaces of the identification tag containing identification and authentication indicia, the front face of the identification tag including text which identifies the issuing entity, the memorabilia article contained within the receptacle and the authentication service.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein a portion of the front face of the identification tag includes an area reserved for a grading mark, the grading mark providing an indication of a collectable condition designation of the memorabilia article, the identification tag further including a numerical designator indicating the quality degree within a particular condition designation.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the identification tag further includes a serial number, the serial number comprising a unique alpha or alpha numeric sequence which specifically identifies the memorabilia article disposed within the housing.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

providing a marker area on a surface of the identification tag; and

disposing a biological marker within the marker area, the biological marker invisible to the naked eye and only visible under light in specific wavelengths, the presence of the biological marker providing an indication of authenticity of the memorabilia article.

14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

providing a memorabilia article registration database, maintained by the authentication service; and

wherein the unique serial number is associated to the specific memorabilia article in the database.

15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

tracking and identifying an encapsulated memorabilia article by its unique serial number;

verifying the serial number pertains to the corresponding memorabilia item; and

verifying the authenticity of an article by a designation of origin and a lack of tamper evidence on their housing.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of performing a scan on the marker area to determine the presence or absence of a biologic marker, the presence of a biological marker giving a further indication of authenticity of an encapsulated memorabilia article.